CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

INFORMATION REPORT

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7. At	present the Czechoslovak government (gives priority to the	following five i	ndustric

- 1. At present the Czechoslovak government gives priority to the following in order named: mining, steel, heavy machinery, building, and chemical, the chemical industry having been so designated in April 1952. This priority is manifested in several ways. The highest wages are paid to workers of these five industries, in the order named above. In planning, all efforts are made to meet the needs of these priority industries, often at the expense of other industries, to insure that they priority industries, often at the expense of other industries is most evident in in Czechoslovakia, perhaps preference afforded these industries is most evident in the supply of manpower. The Ministry of Manpower always strives to provide these five industries with sufficient manpower, even to the extent of transferring workers five industries with sufficient manpower, even to the extent of transferring workers from less essential industries to these priority industries. Manpower for these from schools, through the formation of worker brigades from non-priority industries from schools, through the formation of worker brigades from non-priority industries through the transfer of workers to priority industries, through forced labor, and through army labor units comprised of political unreliables.
- 2. Many youths are recruited for industry upon completion of their ten years' schooling and in the past few years particular attention has been paid to recruitment for the mining and steel industries. In 1950, a program was instituted to recruit youths for these two industries. This program, called the Lany Program (Lanska akee, so called because it originated in the town of Lany), called for 10 thousand volunteer youths, to be selected upon completion of their ten years' schooling from the class graduating in the Spring of 1951. During the winter months of the school year 1950—graduating in the apprentice of the school year, the youths were urged to join one 51 and continuing to the end of the school year, the Apprentice School for Steel Workers. Glowing terms were used to describe these schools and the life led by

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students attending them. This campaign was conducted in the classrooms, at student rallies, and in the newspapers. Mining was depicted as the most honorable and patriotic calling in which a Czeck' citizen could engage, and almost equal praise was afforded the steel worker.

School uniforms, decent living quarters, good food, ample opportunities and facilities for participation in sports, and the opportunity to learn an "honorable" trade served to attract many youths. Upon completion of the two years' course at one of these schobls the youths are assigned work at some mine or steel plant, depending on the trade in which they were trained. the government succeeded in reaching its goal of 10 thousand; the youths were usually easily persuaded; the greatest difficulty was in overcoming the resistance of their parents, who, more often than not, preferred their children to study some other trade. The goal set in 1951 for the school year ending in the Spring of 1952 was 15 thousand volunteers, and this figure was reached. the goal set in 1952 for the school year ending in the Spring of 1953 is also 15 thousand.

In 1950, the Ministry for Manpower instituted a practice, which is still continued, of forming worker brigades in less essential industries for temporary work in the mining, steel, and building industries (it is not done in the heavy machine industry because that industry usually needs highly skilled permanent workers and the members of worker brigades do not normally possess these skills; it has not been done in the chemical industry because that industry became a priority industry only in April 1952, but in the future it may also receive worker brigades). Under this program of worker brigades, the workers at a plant belonging to a non-priority industry are asked to volunteer for work in one of the three industries mentioned above for a period of six months or one year when this practice was first instituted, in 1950, the periods were shorter, perhaps two or three months, but they have since been lengthened to six months and, usually, one year). Some workers volunteer because of the higher wages paid in these industries, while others have to be persuaded to volunteer.

there were undoubtedly many who volunteered reluctantly. The non-priority factories from which workers were thus recruited carried them as employees of their factories for the duration of their absence; the factories to which these workers were temporarily assigned paid them but did not carry them on their books as employees. Those factories from which volunteers are recruited are confronted with an artificially imposed manpower shortage while their production schedules are unchanged; they either have to increase the rate of production or fail to fulfill the plan. The latter is the usual result and a reduction is made in their production plan for the next year. Upon completion of their volunteer period of employment at the factories of one of these three industries, the workers may return to their permanent places of employment. Some of them, however, attracted by the higher wages, request an extension of volunteer work while others decide to remain permanently. Inasmuch as the Czech government is showing preference to these priority industries, these requests to remain are invariably granted. One of the reasons for taking these workers as volunteers and not transferring them permanently is the lack of housing in the vicinity of the mining, heavy machinery, and building industries, some of which have been expanded in recent years. These volunteer. workers, practically all males, live at the factories to which they are assigned in makeshift buts without their families. Should they desire to remain permanently, efforts are made to secure housing for their families in the area.

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Generally speaking, it is quite easy for a worker to transfer from a non-priority industry to one of the five priority industries. Particular emphasis is placed on the mining and steel industries, to which it is possible to transfer even from the other three priority industries, on the other hand, it is virtually impossible to transfer from the priority industries, particularly from the mining and steel industries, to the non-priority industries. Government propaganda is constantly encouraging workers to accept employment with one of the five priority industries.

The tremendous emphasis being placed on heavy industry is a clear indication that Czechoslovakia is being converted into a citadel of heavy machinery production. Priority has been given to these five industries in the attempt to build up the heavy machinery industry, often at the expense of industries producing consumer goods and other "non-essential" items. The glass, leather, and textile industries, for example, once renowned for their products, have been gradually. reduced to small enterprises.

this trend toward concentra- 25X1 storage levels of chemicals tion on heavy industry. needed by non-priority industries were increasing steadily as a result of the decreasing demand for them. This was particularly true in the case of auxiliary chemicals used by the textile industry; storage of these chemicals was placing a considerable strain on storage 25X1 facilities and it seemed apparent that their production would have to be curtailed in the future. This case was so noticeable because the textile industry was such a huge consumer 25X1 any drop in consumption would be much more evident than in some other the heavy industries, 25X1 industry. At the same time especially mining and steel, were steadily increasing their demands for chemicals. This was particularly true in the case of carbides and sulphuric acid, the demands for which could scarcely be met.

In connection with the emphasis on heavy industry, even the automobile industry has been affected. In 1951, discussions were held to determine the feasibility and practicability of transferring the production of all passenger cars to Poland and having Czechoslovakia produce only trucks. This plan was abandoned 25X1 because of the vehement objections on the part of workers in the passenger car industry, who were reluctant to be transferred to other jobs. The plan finally adopted was to produce, in the future, only one make of passenger car, the Tatra eight-cylinder; the plants for the production of Skoda and Tatra four-cylinder passenger cars will be converted to the production of trucks. News of the contemplated transfer to Poland of all passenger car production and the plan subsequently adopted was commonly known

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